

E. the report of the committee appointed to confer the reference anent the condition of the J

A long discussion followed on the report of the committee. "That," said W. H. Gray by way of recapping forthwith, and that the presbytery of Washington be requested to make the best possible compromise between Mr. Gray and the congregation as to arrears of stipend, the minimum to be paid to him not less than \$100." On the motion of the Rev. Gilchrist, it was agreed,— "That inasmuch as minister of the Jubilee church has intimated to assembly his intention of resigning his charge for good reasons, the presbytery of Washington be instructed to every effort to make the best possible compromise

between Mr. GIBBY and the congregation as to the amount of stipend, the minimum to be paid to be less than £100."

THE LADIES' COLLEGE.

The Rev. W. S. FRANKLIN brought forward the following overture:—"It is hereby humbly offered to the General Assembly to meet at and under the presidency of the Rev. J. G. Macdonald, D.D., being an ordained minister and elder of the Church, shall hereby be declared a member of the General Assembly and a member of the Presbytery of Fife, and remit the same to presbytery report to the next Assembly."

The Rev. W. S. FRANKLIN moved, and it was agreed to,—"Sustain the overture and send it do to presbytery with instructions to report to the next assembly."

CURRAN, GENERAL SECRETARY, BRADING.

The clerk laid on the table the financial table the statistical report. On the 10th of the 1st of the following deliverance was carried. The clerk then read the interim report, and authorized the completion of the annual report, and its inclusion in the blue book for 1893."

VOICES OF THANKS.

The following resolution of thanks was, on motion of the clerk, duly seconded, carried on voices:—"That the thanks of the assembly be given to the minister and office-bearers of St. Stephen's Church for their kindness in granting the use of the Church during the sittings of Assembly, and for the necessary arrangements connected therewith; and that special thanks be awarded to the society committee for their very liberal arrangements and attention to the requirements of members."

assembly to the friends in Sydney and suburbs their hospitality; and to the ladies who have kindly ministered to the wants of members assembly on this occasion."

MODERATOR'S CLOSING ADDRESS.

The MODERATOR then delivered his closing address. He said:—Fathers and Brethren,—As at the close of our assembly, I congratulated you on having together in annual season, so I now quite as heartily congratulate you in having come to the termination of your session and arduous labours. Much work has been done in this assembly, and I most cordially commend you, and to thank you on this account, for the peace, unity, and brother love which have characterized all our meetings. Brethren, stiff and strong, have sometimes blown, there has only served to clarify the atmosphere,

to prove that we can differ and yet remain close together in the brotherhood of love. While it is true that you took part in the various debates and discussions, I am sure that you will have been fully spoken in their contexts for what the well-being of the Church and the people of the world should be right and most conducive to the interests of the Church, and of Christ's cause and kingdom in the world. As honest men are bound to be, there has been little acerbity or acrimony shown, and I am quite sure that when on either side there has been strong speech, each gave to the other of sincerity and integrity of purpose, and now the debates are at an end, you will go away with the same good will and the same respect for each other as you brought with you. Upon the assembly, in point of attendance, unity of purpose and important legislation, will bear very favourable testimony to the wisdom and the wisdom of the assembly with any of its predecessors.

me, fathers and brethren, as I do it
the bottom of my heart, to thank
you for the kind consideration and concern
which you have shown to me during my occupancy
of this chair, forbearance and consideration that I
feel bound to express, and which has been generous
my dear friend, and while you bestow upon your
kind, you have also been to my fault a little less
on account of an infirmity by which I have
afflicted for many years, I trembled at the thought
occupying the position of your Moderator, and I
have hardly come up to your expectations, and I
certainly I have fallen very far short of my
satisfactions. I trust you will generously overlook
my shortcomings, and will believe that I speak
in honest truth when I say that God grant your
health and strength double every year, and your
wisdom and energy tenfold each year in future.

the interior of the Church, and to promote the glory of God. I mean to magnify the office which my kindred promoted me to, and, if possible, to dignity to it, so that when I come to render back trust you have reposed in me, I may not have been a sigh and ejaculate: "After all, uneasy I find that wears a Moderator's crown." Many important, and taken up in all, most encouraging, and I am sure, will be the result of the civil affairs are always a tremendous, beggar as hideous nightmare to many, and I often don't the outlook in this respect. But, even standing the firm ground that we as a Church ought always be able, to pay our way and to owe no man anything, than to love one another, I do not admit there is any real occasion for despondency or despair. The present time is not auspicious.

upheld by God in mercy grant that the same may be the lot of all who pass away, and that seasons of happiness may be long return; and our sympathies and prayers will help these poor sufferers who in our own times have been bereft of their all. And protect them, and while His judgments are abroad in the land, let the inhabitants learn righteousness. The defect notwithstanding, the Church of England is ever ready to co-operate, and has plainly showed that, as a Church, she is not set against the Government, but is ready to co-operate, still, but is making considerable advances; and we only the money and the men, we advance yet more and more. Many fields throughout this vast territory are waiting to be cultivated and it is hoped that before long suitable labourers will be found willing to enter into the service of the Church.

our imagination is given to us, and hope we have from the theological tutors we learn that the latter preachers of mass meetings have been before us, and that nature's beauty has raised up, and of our being indicated that we have heretofore been to the meetings of the churches for our supplies. These churches have hitherto done nobly, but surely it is far better to be self-reliant than to be dependent, and if we do, we can pay proper attention to the young, and to the courage piety and talent among them, there, in our saying how many may yet go forth from our Sabbath schools to unfurl a banner because of the truth of the cause. My dear friends, the youth are imbued with the minds of the youth are imbued with the principles of our holy religion, the more like us we are to have our ranks recruited by earnest and godly workers. Fathers and Brethren, some of us have already borne the burden

heat of the day. In the course of nature we must soon be gathered to our fathers. One sorrow and another weepeth. May the reaping of these things may come after us be far more abundant than the sowing. May we be gathered to our fathers with and who reapeeth rejoices together. The Hawaiian mission report was a very interesting and instructive one. It gave a good idea of what we as a Church are doing for God's work among the Chinese residents who have taken up their abode among us, and for the Christianizing of the poor, enslaved, and brought people of other lands. We are not yet doing all that we might, or that we ought to do; but we rejoice in signs of progress, and at the manifestation of our comparatively feeble efforts. May the good work go on and prosper. I am sure this is the hope and prayer of all earnest souls.

I stand in my opening address that a mission
 church is a God-blessed and a God-guarded church
 and I have not enjoyed a night in this assembly
 equal to that in which the heathen mission report
 was given by the committee's energetic co-workers
 and heard these South Sea Islanders, rescued from
 heathen darkness, sing the sweet praise
 of Jehovah in so hearty a manner as they did. (Choir)
 I am happy also that it fell to my lot in my own
 capacity to preside at the laying of the foundations
 of a place of worship, to be consecrated to
 the glory of God, for the accommodation of our Chinese
 brethren. God grant all success to this great
 enterprise.

Waft, waft, ye winds, this story,
 And you, ye waters, hail,
 Tell like a son of glory
 I came from pole to pole;

There were many other matters which have been transacted at this assembly that I should be liked to have touched upon: but I must have no respect to my own strength and to your patience. Fathers and brethren, I now, wishing you all God blessing, dismiss you to domestic repose—(cheers)—to domestic repose, did I say? Yes; and I hope you may have a large measure of that felicity, but I think you will not neglect your daily and all-day work. My sincere prayer is that wherever you are the God of all grace may go along with you and that wherever you abide the goodwill of Him who dwelt in the bush may abide with you, so that you may be sustained and pro-

Take my life, and let it be
 consecrated, Lord to thee.
 Take my moments and my days,
 let them flow in ceaseless praise.
 Take my hands and let them move,
 At the impulse of the love.
 Take my feet, and let them be
 swift and beautiful for thee.

And now beloved fathers and brethren, may God
 peace, who brought us again from the dead be the
 shepherd of the sheep, with the blood of the eter-
 nal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make you perfect
 every good thing to us, that we may be able to stand
 in the presence of our Father in Christ Jesus, through Je-
 sus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The clerk read the minutes of the soderunt, & they were sustained.

After prayer, the assembly joined in singing the last three verses of the 122nd psalm. After which the Moderator intimated that the next session of the General Assembly would be held in St. Stephen's Church on Tuesday, the 10th March, 1894. T. Moderator, at 5.40 P.M., declared this session of the General Assembly closed, and pronounced the Apostolic benediction.

instant; cleared the river at 4.15 p.m. and Port Phillip Heads at 7.15 p.m. same day; rounded Wilson's Promontory at 2.50 a.m. and Geabo Island at 5.25 a.m. on the yacht in fine order, and hopes to get home in as good time as last year—in the eighties to the Channel.

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The Right Hon. R. W. Duffy, Governor-General, has been elected a Fellow of the Colonial Institute.

In the Legislative Assembly yesterday the Trust Property Act Amendment Bill was read the second time and taken through committee. Mr. Coghlan, Minister of Lands, moved the postponement of the Bill till the 10th of the next month, and the Bill was adjourned.

M. BOURKE, Minister of Justice in the House of Representatives, resigned in protest against the statement of Mr. Coghlan to the court during the second trial of the Panama directors and others, his withdrawal his resignation and will resign the Ministry.

A MEMBER of the Labor party was held yesterday to consider what attitude should be taken in regard to the Council's amendments to the Electoral Bill. It is understood that the party agreed that the members of the Assembly in the bill should be limited on.

The election for Banfill, to fill the vacancy in the House of Commons caused by the resignation of the Right Hon. R. W. Duffy, has resulted in the election of Mr. W. D. Williams as the Liberal candidate, by a majority of 71 votes over the Conservative candidate.

In London the fund in aid of the sufferers by the earthquake in Sicily has been closed. The total sum raised is £3400.

Tax holders of debentures of the Wellington-Manawatu railway, New Zealand, complain that the non-exemption of their debentures from the provisions of the Income Tax Act is a breach of agreement on the part of the Government.

Wellington-Manawatu Railway debentures have been exempted from income tax.

At the Bathurst Police Court yesterday, a German named Joseph Uhlend was charged with having placed an obstruction on the railway line near Grosvenor, and was remanded to Sydney. The case against the defendant is that he had slept across the line, as he was hungry and wanted to get into goal so that he would have a meal.

The local rank of Major-General has been conferred on Colonel E. T. H. Hutton, the new commandant of the New South Wales military force.

The Imperial Institute all the Australian courts are well advanced in preparation for the State opening by the Queen in May.

In connection with the dispute at the Metropolitan mine, Halesburg, the Council of Arbitration has decided to award the miners 2s 3d per ton for ordinary bords and headings, 2s 3d per ton for Welsh bords, and 1s 2d per ton for pillars, with an allowance to the miners of 1d per ton as a consideration for using safety lamps.

The council also fixed the rate payable for filling small coal at 8d per skip of 15cwt, which is equal to 1s per ton.

The vast quantity of American wheat is estimated at 55,000,000 bushels.

At Corowa indignation has been aroused by the action of the Victorian Customs officer at Wahgunyah in having a gate erected on the Victorian road to the new bridge over the Murray and locking it each night at 11 o'clock, thus blocking the bridge against late travellers to either colony.

The sixth and last series of first-class international cricket matches is to be played on the Adelaide Oval yesterday between Victoria and South Australia. The South Australians completed their first innings for 242 runs.

JOHN EVERTON, who was undergoing a sentence of three months for robbing the Sydney House of Penal establishment, Queensland, committed suicide yesterday by hanging himself.

At the Wesleyan Conference yesterday, the Australian committee for 1893 were appointed.

A joint committee of the two Houses of the English Parliament has agreed to a bill of lading, which will be submitted to the shipowners and shippers for ratification.

At the Legislative Assembly yesterday, the Council's amendments to the Employers' Liability Act Amendment Bill were agreed to. Mr. Kelly, who had charge of the bill, stating that it would be a great relief to the employers to risk the destruction of the bill. He said that he would introduce an amending measure restoring the lost features of the bill.

At the meeting of the Minister for Public Instruction has authorized the teachers of the Public schools situated in the borough of Balmain to form swimming clubs for boys and girls attending the schools.

At a meeting of the select committee appointed to inquire into the establishment of a national bank, held yesterday, Mr. Smellie, manager of the Sydney branch of the bank, presented to the committee the submitted returns of the business of the bank and the Government account. Mr. Wilson, manager of the Sydney branch of the Bank of New South Wales, also presented his returns.

The results of the examinations held at the University of Sydney recently appear on another page.

At Kaipara, New Zealand, the hull of a schooner, the "Maid of the North," which was wrecked on the beach, has been washed ashore.

TELEGRAPH communication to Brisbane has been restored.

YESTERDAY the session of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was brought to a conclusion. In his closing address the Moderator briefly reviewed the work of the session.

MR. LYNCH, the Minister for Works, left Sydney yesterday for Sydney, to visit the Government. He intends to speak at Forbes on Saturday night.

A MARRIED WOMAN named Ann Burdell was admitted to the Sydney Hospital last night, suffering from a fever, and is reported to have been caused by her husband, John William Burdell, attacking her with a tomahawk.

Tax Customs receipts yesterday amounted to £20,250, of which £12,000 were in payment of duties contributed £779, and the 15 per cent. £147.

We may take it that a letter which appeared in our columns on Wednesday, signed "E. W. O'Sullivan," was intended to reply to the doubts that had been expressed as to the continued existence of the so-called Retrenchment Party, and to supply the basis of its policy and intentions. If that is the case, we should require no further evidence to prove the hopelessness of looking for any true economy from this quarter. Last session it was announced that this party could not be expected to exist, and it is not to touch the Public Works Department, inasmuch as much of its expenditure was in the direction of employing labour. But the expenditure of the Public Works Department for 1891 was £426,000, rather a large sum to exempt from the operations of economy, especially when much of the work of the department has disappeared owing to the decline of expenditure on public works. Now we are told that the Retrenchment Party will not touch the Public Works Department, although it is well known that public money is wasted immeasurably more in stuffing the departments with needless and useless members than in excessive remuneration for work really done. What is to be the result of this? Is it to be a matter of indifference to the public, regardless of the question whether or not an equivalent is given for them in the shape of valuable service. Experience shows that the amount of money which is wasted in the Public Works Department can possibly be saved in this way, and it is not to be expected that the results obtained from a careful and discriminating weeding out of the departments, and dispensing with those who never ought to have been appointed, and but for the exercise of political patronage, would be less than the sum of £100,000. We must, too, from the programme any profession of the desire to reduce taxation, which, indeed, would be out of place when we consider that prominent members of the Retrenchment Party are now relying on the fact that the Government are increasing of any increase of taxation which may be mooted, without regard to the question whether or not it is required by the circumstances of the country. We believe we are right in saying that in all countries where the policy of retrenchment has been forced upon

of limiting the supplies. It is idle to expect genuine retrenchment from a party the members of which, while adverting to economy and denouncing extravagance, are always ready to increase the obligations of economy, and to lavishly furnish the means of extravagance whenever an opportunity occurs of fairly or unfairly appropriating the money of the people. We shall welcome any legislation which in the way of wise economy which may be effected by the operations of a section which has hitherto done so little to justify its self-assumed title. But if the Government are to be allowed to go on and for the reduction of taxation and on the efforts of a party, the chief members of which profess to believe that the more communities tax themselves in a particular way the richer they become, and to be permitted to continue in the economical administration and of adjusting the equilibrium of our finances must be slight indeed.

But there is another quarter to which the country is entitled to look for strenuous exertions, and desirably directed on the side of economy, and which it is to be hoped will not be looked to in vain. It is the more necessary to dwell on this point since it can hardly be said that as much was done in this quarter last year as was to be expected. The proper critic of the financial administration of the Government is the Opposition. This is especially the case when the Opposition has based its objection to some of the Government's taxation, and has been obliged to admit that they are not required. Our present Opposition is the better qualified to champion the cause of economy from the fact that it is composed of free traders. Free traders have been trained to the sound principle that the less is the better, and it is an abridgment of the liberty and a reduction of the means of the citizen, is an evil and that it can only be justified by its necessity. They cannot so false and dangerous the proposition that any taxation is necessary to itself. Every free trade administrator and every free trade critic of the administration of others are bound over by their principles to make economy as far as possible, to take the need of taxation and so to speak, and to make it as small as possible. No doubt that the Opposition will, by its efforts in dealing with the Estimates, whenever these are submitted, labour to justify its declarations, from the practical application of which, however, so many of our taxes are to be removed. The proposition proposed by the Government was unnecessary, and that the balance desired should have been supplied by rigorous enforcement of reductions of expenditure.

We have only to look at what is impending in a neighbouring colony to see to what painful measures of retrenchment a community may be forced which has neglected the timely exercise of proper economy. There was a time when we used to hear of the desolation which gave a financial and fiscal system of Victoria from the party which now sits on the Government side of our Assembly chamber. There never was a time when it could have been said that a party then in power gave little attention to the proceedings of that colony. A protectionist Treasurer lately tried his hand in rectifying the finances by means of a further extension of protection. The result has been that the colony has been reduced to the Treasury. It is now found that the estimate of revenue formed by Sir GRAHAM BREE in July last, was no more than a million and a half in excess of the sum which will be collected. The effect of the extension of protection has been to leave all sides of politics that if the colony is to pay its way, and to regain a position of equilibrium it must reach this result by retrenchment. The retrenchment now contemplated is of a sweeping and wholesale character. It is a time when we sometimes allow little scope for discrimination and for consideration to the claims of individuals. When once the iron law of necessity is invoked, all other considerations must give way. To that stage have we now arrived. The time has come when which might at one time have been effected by the weeding tools of economy must now be brought about by the wholesale unsparring sweep of the scythe of retrenchment. It is a time when the power cannot be secured unless the power of controlling expenditure is exercised to the utmost of its capacity by the Opposition, through which, in the presence of an extravagant Government, the responsibility of retrenchment in the public finances must devolve.

We certainly have no desire to complain of the criticism directed by the Rev. Dr. GILCHRIST against the press for its publishing accounts of the proceedings of the various public institutions. Dr. GILCHRIST is a public critic, and it cannot fairly complain when it comes under the criticism which it on its part freely exercises. It is the right of every citizen to criticise the proceedings of every public institution. Dr. GILCHRIST is the minister of a church, has the duty of safeguarding to the utmost of his power the general interests of public morality, and may fairly claim the rights of a critic on that score. He is entitled to his criticisms. But we may be permitted to urge that the right to criticise does not always confer the power to criticise wisely, and that the question involved is not so much those closely concerned in it not quite so simple as it appears to Dr. GILCHRIST. There was the saying of a Greek sage, who take in but few considerations easily decide. There are many considerations which have to be taken into account before we can give our assent to the proper administration of the functions of public institutions. In the press, if they are errors, in giving particulars of those contents so justly obnoxious to Dr. GILCHRIST, we shall venture to consider it as some set-off that this reprehensible publication was happily the result of the knowledge of the subject which his speech exhibited, and that the warmth into his remarks which helped to secure so satisfactory and unanimous a result at the Presbyterian meeting.

It can only be regarded as flattering to the press to find how high an estimation is formed of its duties of moral censorship by those who stand forward to perform its duties. The activity of the press of criticism and comment. The name "newspaper" indicates, and indicates correctly, that its primary function is that of a purveyor of news. It is in the first instance a mirror of the activity of the community. It has to hold up the mirror to human life, and to reflect what it finds without discrimination, but fairly and faithfully. In pursuance of this first duty it is bound to reflect the activity of the public in its serious labours, in its noblest works, and also into its sports,

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for the defendant Thomas Williams; and Mr. A. H. Simpson, instructed by Mr. W. N. S. King, goods and chattels, and money now dwelling of the female plaintiff, and claimed £10 damages. His Honor delivered his reserved judgment.

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